

# 2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards

## Part I: Cover Sheet

Practice Name Service Learning

Name of Principal Mr. Jim Padglick

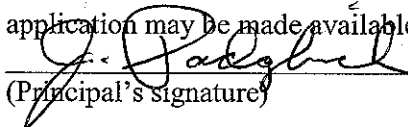
Official School Name Ironwood Elementary School

School Mailing Address 14850 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave Phoenix, AZ 85053 Tel. (602) 896-5605 ext. \_\_\_\_\_

School Website www.wesdschools.org City Phoenix Zip 85053

Email Address jim.padglick@wesdschools.org

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

  
(Principal's signature)

Date 11/28/07

Name of Superintendent Dr. Susan Cook

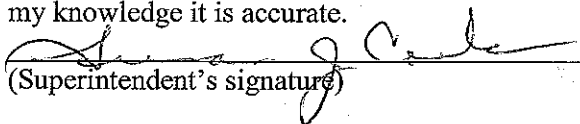
District Name Washington Elementary School District Tel. (602) 347-2600

District Mailing 4650 W. Sweetwater Glendale, AZ 85304

Email Address www.wesdschools.org

City Glendale Zip 85304

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

  
(Superintendent's signature)

Date 12/4/07

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## Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

☒ Urban or large central city ☐ Suburban

☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area

☐ Small city or town in a rural area ☐ Rural

2. 7 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

           If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K 27

5th 87

10th N/A

K 77

1st 70

6th 106

11th N/A

2nd 81

7th N/A

12th N/A

3rd 92

8th N/A

4th 87

9th N/A

TOTAL:           

4. Limited English proficient students in the school: 12.29 % 51 Total Number  
Number of languages represented: 7 Specify languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic,  
Armenian, Cambodian, Assyrian and Mandarin

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 40.56 % 260 Total  
Number

*If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.*

## Practice Implemented by Ironwood School

Ironwood Elementary School has been a Community of Caring school for the past nine years. As part of the program, students take pride in living the five core values. They demonstrate caring on a regular basis through our Service Learning Projects.

Service learning projects are activities that are students are involved in creating for the benefit of others in our community. Our service learning projects have evolved from a once a year project to our current practice of monthly service projects. Our first project was to make holiday gift baskets for families in need in our community. Some of our projects now include a water drive for the homeless, a sock drive, blankets made and given to newborn nurseries and senior centers, canned food drives, donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma cancer society, and letters and packages sent to our service men and women.

Our service learning projects are funded largely by staff supported fund-raisers. We have all worked shifts at McDonald's and skated at Great Skate to make sure we have monies to purchase necessary supplies for our projects.

## How Practice Contributes to Character Development

The staff of Ironwood school feels that service learning is a powerful practice for our students. Our students learn to step outside of themselves and consciously think of others and what they can do to help.

Our projects involve all grade levels of students (K-6) at our school. Staff, parents and community members are equally involved in the planning, preparing and distributing of the

projects. Frequent surveys by our student leaders (TLC'ers) help guide the decisions for the service learning chosen for the year.

Our students eagerly look forward to the projects. Some common questions heard by the students are, "What project are we working on next?" and "Can I donate my birthday money to.... (Whatever the project might be)?" They feel a great deal of pride and self satisfaction for a job well done.

### Impact Practice Has On Ironwood Students

The biggest impact of service learning is the overall feeling of school pride felt by our students and staff. Friendly grade level competitions encourage participation as well as a sense of fun for all. Our students eagerly participate without any need for self rewards. All students understand and are able to communicate values using the same verb age. The words used are universal to all Ironwood students and staff.

An important key component for our students is the follow through of the project. If possible, we have a representative from the agency be a part of our morning video announcements to accept the check or donated items. Thank you letters and cards are also read by our principal on the announcements.

We are seeing an increase in parent support of our activities and more positive comments on our school satisfaction survey.